Storage capacity of the FCI

1869. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the storage capacity of the FCI as on the 31st March, 2001; and

(b) the additional storage capacity the FCI proposes to build during the year 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) FCI had a total storage capacity of 314.4 lakh tonnes [Owned & Hired/Covered & CAP (Covered and Plinth)] as on 31.03.2001.

(b) FCI proposes to construct 1.76 lakh tonnes storage capacity during the year 2001-2002, out of which 1.00b lakh tonnes storage capacity has already been constructed upto October, 2001.

Withdrawal of FCI from foodgrains procurement

1870. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have announced that the task of procurement of foodgrains for PDS is delegated to private sector and completely withdrawing the FCI from this activity;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that recently paddy purchased at distress rates from the farmers of U.P. was transported to Punjab and sold on a discount to millers; and

(c) if so, whether this development togetherwith the complete withdrawal of Government from procurement would not only effect but completely destroy the PDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. No concrete proposal in this regard is under consideration.

(b) No distress sale of paddy by the farmers has been reported from Uttar Pradesh. The movement of foodgrains from the State of Uttar Pradesh to other States is a normal activity as the entire country is treated as a single food zone.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Construction of godowns in Orissa

1871. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have sanctioned Rs. 15.34 crore to build 96 godowns in the Super-Cyclone affected areas of Orissa which have not yet been completed; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of the godowns constructed so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An amount of Rs. 15.40 crores has been sanctioned to Government of Orissa for construction of 96 godowns with a total capacity of 58500 MT in the super-cyclone affected areas. The financial assistance was released during March, 2000 and May 2000 under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, 'construction of godowns'. As per the terms and conditions of the scheme godowns are to be constructed within two years from the date(s)'of sanction of financial assistance. The progress made in the construction of these godowns upto October, 2001 and the details of the completed godowns as reported by the State Government is given as per statement.